

Shipmate October 2008
11 August 2008
Duke Longworth

I love this season at Navy. The Yard is usually still green, the leaves are falling and the cool fall air is exhilarating. It's great weather for the football stadium game march-ons and the P-rades. Yes, the midshipmen are well into the commencement of a new year and, hopefully, another winning football season. Tecumseh is decorated in bright colors for all to see. Like I said, I love fall at Navy!

Speaking of the football season, you'll find this info of use at our home games this year: Our local Class of '71 tailgate and reunion committee will host pre-game tailgates at all Navy Home Football games at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis. If you are in town for a Navy football game, please visit our tent site (same location these past two plus decades - approx mid field on the perimeter on the Navy/Blue side). Games this season are all televised so kickoffs are at 1530. Tailgating will be from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm:

Oct 18 (Pittsburgh - Navy)

Oct 25 (SMU - Navy)

Nov 1 (Temple - Navy)

Navy plays Notre Dame in Baltimore this year and we will continue the "streak" - NO class tailgate for this game. Remember - our tailgates are BYO food and drink to share. Go Navy - Beat 'em all and go to a 6th straight bowl game!

Speaking of football, my first note is a belated note with photo from **Mike Marks**: "Duke, A few more 71ers made it out to San Diego for the Poinsettia Bowl (yes the 2007 season). Our group included **Carl Josefson, Brad Closson, Joe Anthony, Ron Michelsen** (who is pictured with our Mascot in the photo below) and me. We hope all others who attended the game had as good a time as we did. Mike Marks." Thanks for being patient, Mike. There's a story behind the delay getting this photo and note in the Shipmate; however, it's a busy month so I'll press on to more interesting topics!



I received this interesting note from Jean Martini: "Duke, I'm sending this picture for the next column. This is 'TWO BABES IN SHADES.' We all know that the first requirement for becoming a Navy Pilot is to look cool in shades. I think Sebastian Martini passes the test. What grandfathers teach their grandsons----Geeze Louise!!! Hope all is bright and look forward to our next dinner or whatever. Jean." Well, perhaps unknown to Jean, **Perry Martini** sent this note: "Future Navy Pilot with old Navy Pilot - disguised as the Blues Brothers - on the street corner in West Palm Beach Florida - chick magnets? Don't think so! Perry." Well, it just depends on the perspective if they are the babes or the brothers! You may have correctly figured this is a photo of Perry with his first grandchild, Sebastian.



Next is a press release regarding our own Hall of Fame Astronaut, **Bob Cabana**: “NASA astronaut and Minneapolis native Colonel Robert D. Cabana, inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame earlier this year, was honored at the Minnesota Twins baseball game on Aug. 11. Cabana threw out the first pitch as the Twins hosted the New York Yankees at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome. Cabana was selected by NASA to become an astronaut in 1985. A veteran of four space flights, he has logged over 910 hours in space. He served as pilot on STS-41 and STS-53. He was the mission commander on STS-65 and STS-88, the first International Space Station (ISS) assembly mission. Cabana currently serves as the Director of the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. Cabana is part of a team of astronauts returning to their home regions as part of NASA's Hometown Heroes 2008 campaign to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the ISS in orbit and NASA's 50th anniversary as an agency.” Keep up the great work, Bob! I’d love to fly the shuttle in orbit! You lucky dog!

This next note is a tale of “lost class ring” from Perry Martini. “Duke, **Steve Martin** told me he lost his ring in late 1975 when he was a LT assigned to a carrier. The ring was stolen out of his locker at the base gym and he never saw it again. He was ecstatic when he heard from Steve Wilson (former USMC and father of Class of 2012 plebe) about the ring since his parents bought the ring and they have since passed away. The ring has special meaning beyond being his Class of 71 class ring. Steve Wilson picked up a complimentary Shipmate

during I-Day for his plebe and that's how he re-started the search – he got our email addresses from the '71 column! Below is a copy of his message so you can complete the story.”

The story starts with this email note from Mr. Wilson after talking with our own Steve Martin: “I just hung up from Steve. Wow, I have goose bumps from telling him this story. He told me his ring was stolen in 1975 In San Diego. Thank you so much for connecting us. I am FEDEXing it to him in Florida right now.

“I was a 19 year old L/Cpl in the 2nd Marine Regiment. We finished a Med cruise on the USS Spiegel Grove (LSD 32) in August of 1976. We had quite an unusual amount of ‘traffic’ on our ship because we had evacuated several hundred folks from Beirut and dropped them in Athens. We were about to disembark in, I think, Morehead City NC. They were splitting up the Marines based on where they were going next. Kids headed to a year on Okinawa were getting 30 days leave. There was a dirt bag kid headed there (the four year E2 type) who owed me \$20 and I knew I’d never see him again as he had come over to our ship from another during the cruise. I jacked him up pretty good as we got off the ship. He didn’t have any money but he gave me this ring so that I would let go of him. I figured he either had stolen the ring, or gotten from someone who had. We drove back to Camp Jeune before going on leave, and I gave it to my platoon leader and he said he’d try to track down the owner. When I got back from leave, my LT told me he was headed to a school and gave it back to me, saying he had not had time to do anything with it. Out of ideas, I mailed it home to my sister and asked her to write to either the Dept of the Navy or the Naval Academy and see if they could track Steve down. And I forgot about it. Fast forward to last week, my sister is moving out of her house in Long Island, NY and going through boxes that had not been opened in years, and she finds the ring! She called me up, and asked me what she should do with it. She couldn’t remember if anyone had answered her letters over 30 years ago, and she just stuck it in a box. I had her overnight it to me last week, and I started goggling Steve and the class of 1971.

“Thank you again for helping make this happen. Steve sounded extremely happy to be getting it back. Steve Wilson.” That’s a great story. I know our classmate is very happy to have his ring, again!

This next note is from **Jim Rehkopf**: “I’m writing to report on a phenomenal experience I had yesterday, and if you would like to pass this on to our classmates, please do. I attended a luncheon on board the USS Hornet museum at Alameda at which **Tim Keating** was the speaker. He was speaking to the Bay Area Tailhook organization. I could not be prouder of our classmate! He commands our entire military apparatus spanning half the globe, with half the world’s population, trade, shipping, and the five largest armies. Plus, he owns the Strait of Malacca, through which passes 80% of the ship borne crude oil. His breadth of knowledge is breathtaking, and his accomplishments in just fifteen months as Commander, Pacific Command are incredible. And, he is a fabulous,

riveting, communicator. If this were my job, it would stagger me. Not Tim. He relishes it, and yesterday claimed to hold the 'best job in the world.' He was on his way to DC where he would meet with the 'Secretary' and may have another meeting with the President of the United States. BZ to Admiral Timothy Keating! We are blessed to know him, to support him, and to pray for him as he carries a heavy load for our wonderful country and leads the greatest military the world has ever seen. (And while I'm at it, BZ to General **John Sattler**, who just retired. He is another of the incredible leaders of our class!) Duces Virum, Jim." You are "on target" with this assessment, classmate!

My next note is from **Mark Horgan**, a fellow 36th Company-mate: "Duke, summer is going well here in Titledown - I got to the final game of the Celtics-Lakers playoffs in June, which was terrific. Never a dull moment managing medical malpractice claims for the insurance program of Harvard's teaching hospitals, where I've been since retiring from the JAG Corps in 1999. Our son, John, trained at King's Bay, Camp Lejeune, Oceana and Little Creek during CORTRAMID this summer, and returns to Notre Dame in August for his sophomore year. He's an engineering major and aspiring nuke who has obviously fallen far from the tree. At the mid-point of the golf season I can report having made zero progress toward my goal of qualifying for the Senior Tour. Any plans for a get together during the Navy football season? Regards, Mark." It looks like a mini-reunion is in progress for 36th CO later this fall. That will be fun!

Garry Holmstrom followed up with this note: "Duke, I'll look to see if I can make 1 Nov. Always great to see you and to say hi to our two sons at USNA. The oldest, Anders '08, just graduated and is at USNA for Initial Flight Screening before going to Pensacola. Warm regards, Garry."

My last note for this month is from our class president: "It is my sad duty to report the recent passing of **Ralph Westerman**. He passed away on July 18th while under Hospice Care. He was from the Pittsburgh, PA area and attended the Naval Academy Prep School prior to his entrance to USNA with our class. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, son, Cory, and four grandchildren. A funeral service was held in Freeport, PA followed by a private burial. To send a condolence, visit www.redmondfuneralhomeinc.com." Thanks for keeping us in the loop, Perry.

Time, tide and column due dates wait for no man. The silly season in politics continues. Surely one man doesn't really hold the keys to our future. Just as important are the local legislators who create the laws that we must follow. More importantly, football tailgates are a great time to renew contact with classmates and to get the company annual reunions going. Please pray for wisdom for our nation's leaders, especially for our classmates in national military, civilian and commercial leadership billets. Pray, too, for the success of our missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Duces Virum, Duke